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Control: 39
1960 MAR 9 AM 6 09
Rec'd: March 8, 1960
10:00 p.m.

ACTION:
INFO:

File
LAS 3/9/60

FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2299, March 8, 6 p.m.

Embassy despatch 1253.

Embassy has just received reply to Embassy note 247 on French ship explosion. Cuban note reads in translation as follows:

QUOTE

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of note number 247, dated March 5, 1960 and to thank you for your statement of personal condolences for the tragic events of the 4th in which numerous Cuban workers and members of the rebel army, as well as various French citizens, lost their lives.

Although we have sufficient resources to care for the survivors of the disaster, I also want expressly to record our acknowledgement of the offer contained in the note under reference.

In connection with the preoccupation which you set forth concerning the possible occurrence of acts of irresponsible violence against United States citizens, in the heat of the profound grief and legitimate anger produced by the obscure origin of the catastrophe, I am greatly pleased to reiterate to you that the Cuban people are too intelligent, alert and civilized to fall into confusions, injustices or stupidities. The honor of Cuba remains completely protected against all manner of foreign presumptions as it constitutes untransferable patrimony of the nation and a virtue inherent in the exercise of sovereignty, which the revolutionary government and the Cuban people protect and exalt in their unyielding determination to defend and affirm it, through the full enjoyment of political autodetermination, economic independence and social justice.

BRADDOCK

UNQUOTE

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